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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 143557

E.O. 12356: DE L: O DR

TAGS: MARR, PINS, PREL, PHUM, MOPS, PGOV, RW UNSC

SUBJECT: RWANDA: UN REQUEST FOR APC DATA

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REF: A) USUN 2058, B) USUN 2224

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. USUN IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE THE TALKING POINTS IN
FARA 3 BELOW TO THE UN SECRETARIAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THESE TALKING POINTS ARE IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST MADE
TO US BY THE UN EARLIER THIS MONTH (REF A) FOR PRICE AND
AVAILABILITY DATA FOR THE SALE OR LEASE OF 50 TRACKED
ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS (APCS) FOR UNAMIR TROOPS
AUTHORIZED UNDER UNSCR 918 FOR THE FIRST PHASE OF

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DEPLOYMENT TO RWANDA TO ASSIST WITH HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS. THESE POINTS ALSO RESPOND TO THE INDICATION WE RECEIVED TODAY (REF B) THAT THE UN WOULD LIKE TO LEASE THESE APCS WITH ASSOCIATED SUPPORT EQUIPMENT THE USG TEAM OF EXPERTS WILL BRING A MORE DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF OUR PRICE AND AVAILABILITY DATA WHEN IT MEETS WITH THE SECRETARIAT ON THURSDAY, MAY 26

. BEGIN TALKING POINTS:

-- THE USG WANTS TO REMAIN SUPPORTIVE OF THE UN EFFORTS IN RWANDA.

-- THE USG IS WILLING TO PROVIDE THE APCS BUT WOULD GREATLY PREFER TO SELL AS OPPOSED TO LEASING THEM TO YOU.

-- PRICE AND AVAILABILITY DATA FOR THE MODIFIED M113S REQUESTED WILL NEED TO BE OBTAINED BEFORE THAT PORTION OF THE REQUEST CAN BE ANSWERED.

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-- AVAILABILITY OF AIRLIFT FOR THESE APCS IS BEING DISCUSSED AT THIS TIME.

-- NEVERTHELESS, IT IS OUR MILITARY JUDGMENT THAT FOR THE MISSION THAT THE UN IS UNDERTAKING, IT WOULD BE BETTER SERVED BY USING WHEELED APCS.

-- WHEELED VEHICLES ARE LESS EXPENSIVE TO PURCHASE, WOULD REDUCE THE COST OF TRANSPORT, AND ARE LESS EXPENSIVE AND EASIER TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THAN TRACKED VEHICLES.

-- THEY ARE FASTER AND PROVIDE THE SAME LEVEL OF PROTECTION AGAINST THE LIGHTLY ARMED FORCES THAT THEY WOULD ENCOUNTER IN RWANDA

-- WITH WHEELED VEHICLES, THERE WOULD BE A DECREASE IN THE NECESSARY TRAINING PERIOD FOR THE GHANAIANS NIGERIANS, AND SENEGALESE, WHO ARE ALL EXPERIENCED WITH WHEELED APCS.

-- USE OF WHEELED VEHICLES, AS OPPOSED TO TRACKED, WOULD ALSO LIMIT DAMAGE TO THE RWANDAN ROAD SYSTEM.

-- IN THIS REGARD, IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT UNAMIR IS

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ALREADY USING WHEELED AFCS.

-- IF YOU DECIDE TO REQUEST THE WHEELED VEHICLES, THERE ARE MANY SOURCES. BESIDES THE COUNTRIES (AT LEAST 36) WHO USE WHEELED APCs, THERE ARE ALSO COMPANIES IN THE UNITED STATES THAT COULD PROVIDE THE AFCS. THIS WOULD PROBABLY COST SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN WHAT WE WOULD ASK FOR TRACKED

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APCS.

-- NEVERTHELESS, IF YOU REQUEST TO PURCHASE THE 50 TRACKED APCs, WE ARE PROVIDING YOU WITH THE COST DATA NECESSARY TO MAKE YOUR DECISION

-- THE USG WOULD GREATLY PREFER TO SELL THE APCs AS OPPOSED TO LEASING THEM TO YOU.

-- FURTHERMORE, IF YOU ARE TO RECEIVE THE TRACKED APCs FROM THE USG, WE MUST ASK THAT YOU PURCHASE WITH THE VEHICLES, THE SPARE PARTS PACKAGE NECESSARY TO KEEP THE VEHICLES RUNNING FOR THE DURATION OF THE MISSION OR A MINIMUM OF TEN MONTHS.

-- AS YOU WILL SEE FROM OUR COST DATA, PURCHASING THE 50 TRACKED APCs FROM THE USG WILL COST ABOUT 20 MILLION US DOLLARS. THE COST ESTIMATE INCLUDES NOT ONLY THE REQUIRED SPARE PARTS BUT ALSO TRANSPORT AND TRAINING. THE PACKAGE WOULD COST LESS IF YOU CONTRACT OUT OR HAVE ANOTHER NATION PROVIDE THE NECESSARY TRAINING AND TRANSPORT.

-- (NOTE: IF THE UN IS UNWILLING TO PURCHASE A LEASE WOULD COST APPROXIMATELY 10 MILLION US DOLLARS FOR TEN MONTHS. THE SPARE PARTS PACKAGE IS A REQUIRED PURCHASE REGARDLESS OF LEASE OR PURCHASE.)

-- TO PREPARE THE VEHICLES FOR USE BY THE UN AND TRANSPORT THEM TO THE REGION FOR TRANSPORT BY THE UN INTO RWANDA, IT WOULD TAKE THE USG A MINIMUM OF FIVE WEEKS FROM WHEN WE SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH YOU. THIS TIME FRAME DOES

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NOT INCLUDE TRAINING WHICH, AS WE ALREADY SAID, WOULD BE
SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER FOR TROOPS UNFAMILIAR WITH TRACKED
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